

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Peru

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SUBJECT

Rival Communist Groups and Personalities

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The following report has been prepared to clarify some confusion that exists concerning the various Communist groups in Peru which have arisen as a result of expulsions of prominent party members in recent years.

1. At the present time there is only one Communist group in Peru acknowledged as the true Peruvian Communist Party by parties of other Latin American countries, but there are six Communist or Communist-led organizations in the country.
2. The six groups are as follows:
 - (a) The Peruvian Communist Party (PCP) led by Jorge del Prado and Manuel Ugarte and the only group organized throughout the country along orthodox Communist Party lines with national officers, departmental committees, cells, etc.
 - (b) The "Lima Departmental Committee" (not to be confused with the regular Lima departmental committee of the regular Communist Party). This group was originally organized by Juan P. Luna and his supporters, Alipio Orbegoza, Juan Polo, Cesar Angel Marin, Carmelo Moreno, and Jorge Azcoitia when they were all expelled from the orthodox party in 1948. However, Luna and Orbegoza were expelled from this splinter group and its leadership is reported to now rest with Marin. This group has little support outside of Lima proper and has no national organization. It still functions as the "Lima Departmental Committee" and sporadically publishes a clandestine mimeographed sheet known as Hoz y Martillo. It has no standing with other Latin American parties. At the present time many members of this group are requesting reinstatement in the orthodox party, and it is not inconceivable that the "Lima Departmental Committee" will disappear in coming months.
 - (c) The Juan P. Luna group which is not a party and which has no party organization. Luna and his chief aide, Orbegoza, have managed to

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gain control over a large number of important labor unions, and Luna himself is reported to stand very well with Vicente Lombardo Toledano and the CTAL. Luna's adherents follow him personally rather than any party line. Other than maintaining personal relations with other Latin American labor leaders such as Lombardo, Luna does not receive Party-line instructions such as are received by the recognized party.

- (d) The Communist element in Frente de Unidad e Independencia Sindical (FUIS) headed by Juan Cerpa and Pedro Parra, who are also expelled members of the orthodox party. Cerpa and Parra do not have an organized party, but they also control some segments of labor. They are enemies and would-be rivals of Luna.
- (e) The labor elements led by ex-Communist party members, Jose Benites and Isaias Contreras. These individuals broke with FUIS, which they helped organize, and are now reported to be seeking to organize a new labor movement in Peru patterned after Peron's "third position" Confederacion General de Trabajo. Both Benites and Contreras have recently resigned from the Lima Municipal Council with the intention of becoming candidates in the forthcoming congressional elections. Both Benites and Contreras are in the good graces of President Odria. It was while Odria was Minister of Government that Benites and Contreras made their trip to Argentina and became indoctrinated in the Peronista concept of labor movements.
- (f) The Trotskyite group which goes under the name of Partido Obrero Revolucionario and is led by another expelled member of the orthodox party, Leoncio Bueno, and Francisco Abril de Vivero.

Comment: The breakdown given above would indicate that most of the prominent Peruvian Communists are primarily opportunists seeking control of Peruvian labor for their own political ends. At the present time the most dangerous groups are the orthodox party and the Luna followers.